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MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EXPLOITATION
OF FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

25X1A

1446, 2 May, 1949, at Washington, D. C.

Present: Mr. J. J. Bagnall, Chairman
Mr. Theodore Nordbeck, Department of State
Mr. Reuben Peiss, Alternate, Department of State
Mr. T. A. Georgievitch, Department of Army
Lt. Col. H. C. Bonawitz, Department of Air
Lt. Cdr. W. A. Illing, Department of Navy
Mr. Bernard M. Fry, AEC

Consultant from AEC: Dr. Alberto F. Thompson

Consultants from FDS in attendance were as follows:

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1. Sub-committee on study of duplication in National Defense Review, reported that Dr. Altman will be open to recommendations of the Committee on elimination of duplication and reallocation of that effort to a service not now being performed by another agency. A discussion of the value of National Defense Review abstracting the foreign language press in the US disclosed that Department of Army, Air and State would welcome it. The Committee, however, decided to accept the report of the sub-committee but to withhold its decision for further consideration and study of other areas than USSR, in order that Dr. Altman's linguists could be employed on projects of greatest benefit to all agencies.

2. Mr. Fry reported that he and Dr. Thompson had looked into the duplication now being made in "Brookhaven Guide". Dr. Thompson explained that this work was all done on private contract but that they would like to cooperate in any way recommended by the Committee to avoid duplication and the consequent unnecessary expenditure of Government funds. He stated, however, that any changes suggested would have to assure full coverage and full availability for use by AEC. In answer to the query, whether AEC could get full coverage without Scientific "Periodical Abstracts" now being produced by FDS, Dr. Thompson stated that AEC much preferred that FDS continue the production of these abstracts as they afforded coverage not available elsewhere.

3. Col. Bonawitz reported that he had examined the program of Air Studies Division and determined the following: The Air Information Section is composed of translators and is working on a "backlog" project of material in the Library of Congress. It is covering subjects of primary interest to Department of Air and handles only material prior to August 1947. Copies of its products are furnished to CIA. The Air Research Section has no linguists and is working on

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current material of interest to the Strategic Vulnerability Group. They have on occasion asked Air Information to develop certain foreign language material for them. Actually there is no duplication in their mission.

4. The work of non-governmental units (Chemical Abstracts, Biological Abstracts, etc.) was discussed, with the consideration of the possibility of relying on them for certain scientific coverage, thus permitting FDB to devote its effort to other coverage.

Mr. Georgevitch reminded the Committee of the danger of dissolving a government effort in total reliance on a non-governmental source. In time of war when material would be highly classified and produced largely from captured documents it would be detrimental not to have a highly trained unit in being to exploit such material.

It was developed that Chemical Abstracts, while an excellent coverage, was incapable of keeping current due to lack of qualified personnel and was reporting from eight months to several years late.

5. Coordination of present agency translations. The Committee decided that while FDB was maintaining a Central Translation Index, actual notification of available agency translations would be desirable. The desirability of each agency regularly informing the other agencies of its completed translations was discussed. For a study of format, frequency of issue and reporting, etc., it was the Committee's desire that a sub-committee be appointed. Mr.

_____ of FDB were designated his assistants for this study. All members will determine the details of the information desired by their agencies.

6. Agenda for the next meeting, which will be held at _____ 25X1A
_____, 9 May 1949, is as follows:

- a. Conclusions on exploitation of USSR periodicals.
- b. Inter-agency reporting on their respective translations, not published or disseminated.
- c. USSR books.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 1815.

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